

The Northern Lights

New Jersey Department of Education
Northern Regional Office

Governor James E. McGreevey

Commissioner William L. Librera

Gutsy Gab at the Gifted and Talented Symposium of Ideas II

Whether the subject was *Gutsy Girls*, *Differentiated Instruction* or *Peaceable Schools*, gifted and talented ideas were flourishing at *The Gifted and Talented Symposium of Ideas II*. Ninety-seven instructors and administrators participated in the free workshop, facilitated by the Northern Region with the assistance of Dr. Steven Rose and the Passaic County Safety Academy on October 20, 2003.

Feeling Great About Being Gutsy: A Seminar for Gifted Girls, intrigued participants when Bernadette Ricco, Norwood Public Schools, reported on the opportunities to create support groups for girls that foster potential, possibility

and risk-taking. Ms. Ricco recommended that gifted instructors use research – professional journals, semi-



(left to right: Bernadette Ricco, Dr. Adunni Anderson, and Diane Schulthes)

nars, networking and mentoring - to promote credibility and direction in gifted education.

Back by popular demand, Diane Schulthes, Tenaflly Public Schools and

Education Chair of the New Jersey Association for the Gifted Child, presented her second workshop for the Northern Region in *Differentiated Instruction*. Pre-assessment techniques, content, process and product were areas discussed, along with curriculum compacting.

Dr. Adunni Anderson, Montclair Public Schools, introduced the participants to the value of using Montessori techniques in her presentation of *Setting the Stage for Program Success Within the Learning Environment*.

Following the presentations, participants shared ideas in small discussion groups.

Certification News

He arrives on time for the interview with no visible prison tattoos and speaks knowledgeably about Bloom's taxonomy. Best of all, he teaches math! You want to hire him via the alternate route,

but how can you be sure that he will be certified? To avoid some common certification snags, ask the following questions BEFORE you offer the job:

1) What is your grade point average (G.P.A.)?

For instructional certificates, G.P.A.'s must be 2.5 or higher and will go up to 2.75 on September 1, 2004. **2) Do you have the appropriate degree for the certificate for which you are**

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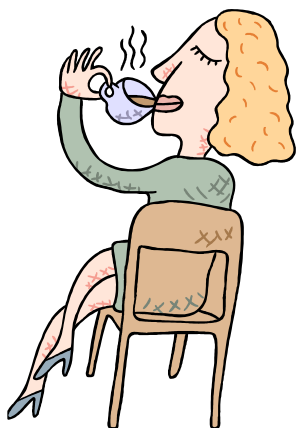
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Special points of interest:

-Heads Up Calendar provides important dates, NJDOE training opportunities, and special events!

-Submit your questions to Coffee with Judi at coffeewithjudi@doe.state.nj.us



Submit your questions or comments to "Coffee with Judi" at: coffeewithjudi@doe.state.nj.us

Coffee with Judi: A Conversation with Dr. Judith Weiss

Dear Judi,
As NCLB's accountability system ratchets up, schools "in need of improvement" have been splashed all over the newspapers panicking parents, schools, and communities. Instead of focusing on the negative, can you take a moment to address where we are excelling?

—Signed, Looking on the Bright Side in Passaic County

Dear Bright Side,
Let's work together to get the good news out.
1) Six schools in the Northern Region were recognized as Governor's Schools of Excellence. Jackson Avenue School in Hackensack, Memorial School in Little Ferry, JFK School in Wayne Township, High Tech High School in Hudson County and Marie V. Duffy School in Wharton

Borough were awarded for their significant and sustained improvement in student performance.
2) The Commissioner announced that New Jersey students scored higher on average than students across the nation in fourth- and eighth-grade math and reading tests, according to the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) results.

Certification News

"I receive numerous calls from prospective alternate route teachers who are sending out resumes, interviewing for jobs. More than a few don't have the required G.P.A. For them, certification just isn't possible."—Rani Singh, NRO Certification Examiner

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applying?

All prospective teachers must hold at least a bachelor's degree. Prospective elementary teachers must have either a liberal arts degree or 60 liberal arts credits. Prospective secondary teachers must either have a degree or 30 credits in a

coherent sequence in each subject area they plan to teach.

Have you taken and passed the appropriate Praxis test?

The vast majority of instructional certificates require the applicant to pass a rigorous state test.

Is your certification application complete with all ap-

propriate transcripts and supporting documentation attached?

One of the main reasons that certification is delayed is because candidates submit incomplete applications.

Contact: (973) 655-2107.



No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Quiz

How much do you really know about this federal law? Take this quiz to see how you rate.

- 1) Which of the following is not an NCLB subgroup?
a) Race and Ethnicity
b) Limited English Proficient
c) Gender
d) Students with Disabilities

- 2) Each state must establish a definition of Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) to measure:
a) student economic status
b) the extent to which programs are research-based
c) performance on the Terra Nova test
d) incremental progress of schools in reaching 100 percent proficiency

- 3) By what school year must ALL groups achieve 100 percent proficiency on state assessments?
a) 2013-14
b) 2007-08
c) 2010-11
d) 2004-05

- 4) Under the NCLB Act, the term "in need of improvement" means the school has not met AYP for:

(Continued on page 6)

In the ETTCs Opportunities for Professional Development

Hudson County ETTC

Title: *PowerPoint Pizazz*

Date: Dec. 10, 2003

Cost: \$100.00

Description: This workshop focuses on utilizing PowerPoints' multimedia capabilities (graphics, sound and video).

Contact: 201-369-3368.

Morris County ETTC

Title: *Dana by Alpha Smart*

Date: Jan. 5, 6, 12, 2004

Cost: \$500 non-consortium

Description: Observe how instructional and administrative duties can be enhanced with the Dana, a laptop alternative that runs the Palm OS on a wide screen.

Contact: 973-622-4600 x292

Passaic County ETTC

Title: *MS Excel Activities for the Classroom*

Date: Dec. 10 & 11, 2003

Cost: \$110.00

Description: Learn how to use MS Excel to create

charts and graphs in the classroom. Fun and easy!

Contact: 973-389-4391

Warren County ETTC

Title: *Reading Supports*

Date: December 4, 2003

Time: 9:00AM-3:00PM

Cost: \$70.00

Description: Explore how to use software titles (Earobic, PleaseRead, Scan to Read, etc.) to support reading in the curriculum.

Contact: 908-835-2842



This winter, take one of these classes and boost your technical prowess!

Matching Grants: Double Your Contributions

Take advantage of the many New Jersey businesses that offer matching grants programs. Employers from these companies will match a tax-deductible gift to your school made by employees, retirees and spouses:

American Express, Avon, AT&T, Banker's Trust, CBS, Chase Manhattan

Foundation, Chubb, Citicorp/Citibank, CAN Insurance, IBM, John Hancock, Johnson & Johnson, Levi Strauss, R.H. Macy & Co., McGraw-Hill, Merrill Lynch, Mobil, Morgan Trust, NYNEX, Pfizer, Philip Morris, Readers Digest, Shearson Lehman, Sony, Texas Instruments,

Time Warner, Transamerica, and Westinghouse Electric.

So, the next time the drama club needs a set for their upcoming production of *The Sound of Music*, try distributing this list to your community and double your contributions. "The hills" will be "alive" in your auditorium in no time.

Employers from these companies will match a tax-deductible gift to your school made by employees, retirees and spouses!

Ken's Tech Tip: Close Everything at Once

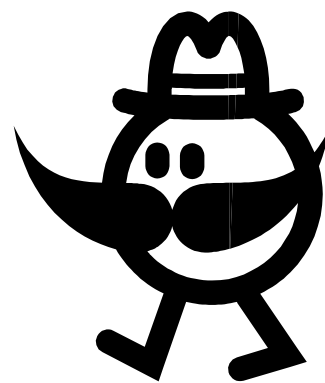
You are due at a board meeting in two minutes after a long day of working on budgets and writing letters to parents. Your only thought—close all documents, shut down the computer and get over to the conference room. Fast.

Despite your haste, you

may be inclined to begin the tedious task of closing each of the Word and Excel files individually.

However, a quicker way to close multiple open documents is to choose the Close All option from the File menu. To display this command, you must hold down

the [Shift] key as you pull down the File menu. When you issue Close All, the program you're using simultaneously closes all open documents. As usual, you'll be prompted to save any modified documents that you haven't already saved.



Let Ken help you!



Schedule of Events

- 12/9/03—SRA Math Holistic Scoring Technical Assistance Session at Warren County Vocational Technical School. (973) 655-2113
- 12/10/03—New GED Testing Center Technical Assistance Session at Montclair State University. (973) 655-2113
- 12/11/03—Brown vs. Board of Education Event at Camden Middle School, Newark. (973) 655-2104
- 12/11/03—Comprehensive Equity Plan Technical Assistance Session at the Bergen County office. (973) 655-2117
- 12/16/03—Comprehensive Equity Plan Technical Assistance Session at Montclair State University. (973) 655-2117
- 12/17/03—Comprehensive Equity Plan Technical Assistance Session at the Essex County office. (973) 655-2117
- 12/18/03—SRA Math Holistic Scoring Technical Assistance Session at Passaic County Public Safety Academy. (973) 655-2113
- 12/19/03—SRA Math Holistic Scoring Technical Assistance Session at the Essex County office. (973) 655-2113

December 2003

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			



Discover which rumors are fact and which are fiction!

Education Rumors: AYP Fact or Fiction?

In this issue, we will tackle the rumors surrounding adequate yearly progress (AYP).

Rumor #1—My high school got a “failing” letter. It’s not fair.

FICTION— Let us set the record straight. *New Jersey doesn’t have “failing” schools. This label is unfair and inaccurate. Furthermore, on the high school level, not a single school has been identified as “in need of improvement.”* In order to be identified as “in need of

improvement,” a school must have missed state-identified adequate yearly progress (AYP) proficiency targets for two consecutive years. As 2002-2003 was the first year that eleventh-grade testing was used to determine whether a school had met proficiency targets, no high schools were identified. Schools that did miss the proficiency target in this first year were sent an “early warning” letter. The purpose of the early warning letter is to provide districts with critical information so they can target

assistance.

Rumor #2—Our school’s percentage of proficiency in math dropped from 84% to 83%. I was told that if it drops again next year we’ll be a school “in need of improvement.”

FICTION— As long as scores do not fall below the state-identified targets, a school is not deemed “in need of improvement.”

Contact: (973) 655-2104

Best Practice Winner: Roosevelt Elementary School in Ridgefield Park

Based on the premise that the single most accurate predictor of student success in school is NOT family income, social status, or education of parents, but, instead, the family's ability to accept, encourage and support the learner, Roosevelt Elementary School developed a public engagement program entitled School and Family: Partners for Early

Success.

The practice began two years ago with take-home activity bags designed to engage the entire family. Individual bags contain quality literature along with hands-on activities, games or projects enabling parents to become actively involved with their child's learning. Rotated on a weekly basis, each family experiences a

minimum of two language arts, one math and one science per month.

In addition, parent information/workshop sessions are held four times a year. The sessions focus on the parents' role, expectations of their child, curriculum, skills and projects for parents.

The Best Practice Winner profiled in our last issue, Lincoln Elementary, is part of the Ridgefield Park



Roosevelt Elementary School in Ridgefield Park won a Best Practice for their School and Family program.

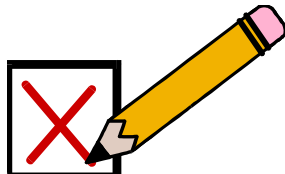


New GED Testing Centers!

Newark-Essex GED Testing Center
c/o Adult Learning Center
32 Warren Place
Newark, New Jersey 07102
(973) 733-7213

Passaic County Community College GED Testing Center
One College Boulevard
Paterson, New Jersey 07505-1179
(973) 684-5900

Passaic County Technical Institute GED Testing Center
45 Reinhardt Road
Wayne, New Jersey 07470
(973) 790-6000



Northern Regional Training

I would like a workshop in:

- ☐ Core Curriculum Content Standards
- ☐ Assessment
- ☐ No Child Left Behind
- ☐ Lesson Study
- ☐ Gifted and Talented Education
- ☐ Needs Assessment/Data Analysis

To receive information about our Professional Development Opportunities, fill out this form and return it to the address listed below.

- ☐ Superintendent
- ☐ Principal
- ☐ Supervisor
- ☐ Teacher
- ☐ Counselor

Name _____
Address _____
Fax _____
Phone _____

Email Address _____
School/District _____

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Montclair State University
Legge House/Normal Avenue

Phone: 973-655-2100
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Email: norah.peck@doe.state.nj.us

**New Jersey
Department of Education**



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Multiple and Diverse Paths of Success

New Jersey Department of Education
Northern Regional Office

Governor James E. McGreevey
Commissioner William L. Librera

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Phone: 973-655-2100

Fax: 973-655-2119

Email: norah.peck@doe.state.nj.us

WE'RE ON THE WEB!

[http://www.nj.gov/njded/regions/
north.htm](http://www.nj.gov/njded/regions/north.htm)

**New Jersey
Department of Education**

Attention LAL

Teachers and Supervisors

Do you have ideas or suggestions for our
upcoming Language Arts Literacy Conference?
How can the Northern Region address your needs
as an LAL teacher or supervisor?

To register your opinion, e-mail: shelley.fox@doe.state.nj.us or leave a message at 973-655-2111.

All suggestions will be seriously considered!



Test your knowledge of NCLB!

No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Quiz

(Continued from page 2)

- a) one school year
- b) two consecutive years
- c) three consecutive years
- d) none of the above

5) If a subgroup is identified as not having met AYP, but the percentage of students in that subgroup not meeting AYP has decreased by 10 percent from the previous year, it is referred to as:

- a) meeting AYP
- b) safe harbor
- c) early warning
- d) none of the above

6) The achievement scores (accountability process) for students with disabilities who are moved from their neighborhood school to receive services at other schools will be attributed:

- a) to their home school

- b) to the school where they are attending and receiving educational services
- c) to both the home school and the school where they are attending and receiving educational services
- d) to the state's accountability system only

7) A school must send letters to parents stating the options for their child if:

- a) the school is categorized "in need of improvement"
- b) the school meets the "persistently dangerous" criteria
- c) the parent's child has been assigned, or has been taught for four or more consecutive weeks, by a teacher who is not highly qualified
- d) all of the above

8) The National Reading Panel stated that reading programs teaching children five skills--phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary and comprehension--would be supported by the NCLB grant entitled:

- a) Success for All
- b) Reading First
- c) Reading is Fundamental
- d) Fox in the Box

7-8 Correct—You have scored "Advanced Proficient." Your knowledge of NCLB rivals that of Secretary Paige.

5-6 Correct—You made AYP!

2-4 Correct—You have been identified as "in need of improvement."

0-1 Correct—You have been left behind.